



DCCECE Commission Report

January 2023

Child Care Provider Monthly Calls: DCCECE is continuing to host monthly Zoom calls with child care providers. These calls occur the first Tuesday of every month at 12:00 p.m. The next call will be held on February 7, 2023.

- To join by phone: 301-715-8592 (ID: 959 5436 3354)
- To join by computer: [Click Here](#) (ID: 959 5436 3354)

Child Care Development Block Grant Fund/Family Support Unit: Family Support has continued to work in partnership with the Federal Child Care Development Fund Regional Office to implement the following resources.

- **ACF Children’s Bureau Learning and Coordination Center Project** –Arkansas was one of only two states selected to discuss our work on behalf of young children with challenging behaviors. DCCECE staff and Behavior Help team partners were interviewed and recorded for a video to be released later this year.
- **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Funding-** DCCECE received \$119,264,607 in February 2021. DCCECE has obligated 100% of the funding awarded.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-** Final approval September 17th,
 - Stabilization – \$286 Million- 90% or \$258 Million of these funds must go directly to providers who were operating before March 11th, 2021. The purpose of this funding was to support licensed providers remain operational, improve quality, sustain operations and expand. Applications opened on October 7th, 2021 for existing Facilities. \$25 Million was set aside for Supply Building. \$3 Million for Administration
 - **Grants Awarded and Obligated as of December 16, 2022:**

	Child Care Expansion	Operational	Quality Improvement	Sustainability	Start-up	Totals
Amount Obligated (Paid + Approved)	\$16,927,500	\$36,368,499	\$96,930,849	\$82,948,200	\$3,565,100	\$236,740,148
Number of Applications Received	311	1550	1489	1342	30	4722
Approved Applications (Paid + Approved)	186	1480	1413	1224	30	4333



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Number of Paid Applications	185	1477	1409	1193	30	4294
Amount Distributed to Providers	\$16,902,500	\$35,760,999	\$94,625,849	\$80,963,200	\$3,565,100	\$231,817,648
Average Distributed per Provider	\$91,365	\$24,212	\$67,158	\$67,865		\$53,986

- **Workforce Support:** Each provider can budget grant funding to support the workforce. As of December 19, 2022, the following amounts have been budgeted:
 - \$49 million for personnel costs
 - \$16 million for staff bonuses
 - \$7 million for substitutes
 - \$4 million for fringe benefits
 - \$3 million to offset costs of new staff salaries for expansion
- **Expansion and Supply Building Grants:** The expansion grants for existing facilities licensed on or before March 11, 2021, are currently under review. There were two rounds of supply building grant applications that were due April 15, 2022 and August 15, 2022. Grants have been awarded to serve 7,279 children:
 - 2,154 Infants
 - 2,791 Toddlers
 - 3,478 School-Age
 - 123 Homes
- Supplemental Discretionary – \$175 Million - This funding covers \$130 million for Essential Worker Child Care assistance. \$40 million for the national TEACH and WAGE programs for early childhood teachers to obtain a degree in the field and recognize the accomplishment financially. \$ 8 million for administration. Expended \$87 million for essential workers to be completely utilized by December 31, 2022.
- **Child Care Assistance for Essential Workers** - Current essential worker families-17,020.



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- **Deep Cleaning Reimbursement-** DCCECE has remaining funds for deep cleaning following a positive COVID-19 case in either a staff member or child. This resource has allowed providers to continue to safely operate during the pandemic. Invoices should be sent to DeepCleaning@dhs.arkansas.gov within one month of services provided. This will be continued until funding is exhausted.
- **Better Beginnings Tiered Quality Improvement System –**
 - Level 1 – 532 - revision
 - Level 2 – 475 - revision
 - Level 3 – 725 - revision

Health and Nutrition Unit: CACFP waivers will remain active until June 30, 2023.

- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided several national waivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the waivers have different start dates and end dates.
See a list of the waivers below:
- ***Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver:*** Allows non-congregate feeding in CACFP programs, including offering meals offsite, via “grab and go,” and through delivery, extended through June 30, 2023 (fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19-child-nutrition-response-2).
- ***Parent/Guardian Meal Pick-Up Waiver:*** Allows parents or guardians to pick up non-congregate meals for their children, extended through June 30, 2023 (fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19-child-nutrition-response-5).
- ***Meal Times Waiver:*** Allows CACFP meals to be served to children outside traditional times to maximize flexibility for meal pick-up, extended through June 30, 2023 (fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19-child-nutrition-response-1).
- ***Waiver of Area Eligibility in Afterschool Programs and Family Child Care Homes:*** Allows schools and afterschool care providers to serve At-Risk afterschool meals and snacks to students at the free rate regardless of their location. The waiver also allows family child care homes to automatically receive the highest (Tier 1) reimbursement rate regardless of their location. This waiver has been extended starting July 1, 2022 through June 30 , 2023.



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- **Monitoring Requirements Waivers:** Allows State agencies and sponsoring organizations to conduct virtual monitoring activities via a desk audit or other means to maintain program integrity while supporting social distancing. These waivers remain in effect until 30 days after the end of the public health emergency (fns.usda.gov/cn/child-nutrition-monitoring-nationwide-waiver).

Commodities Unit:

- USDA Foods received by program:

October - December 2022

Award	# of Cases	Value	Pounds
TEFAP	110,512	\$3,264,967.56	2,468,225
BBB	33,920	\$666,898.47	667,346
Sub-Total	144,432	\$3,931,866.03	3,135,571
NSLP	631,566	\$5,261,823.80	2,966,778.50
CACFP	864	\$28,322.52	34,992.00
Sub-Total	632,430	\$5,290,146.32	3,001,770.5
Total	776,862	\$9,222,012.35	6,137,341.50



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- Average number of clients served per month (based on entire year):
 - 2019: 147,000
 - 2020: 179,642
 - 2022: 154,454
- The Commodity Distribution Unit has been approved for three (3) grants with USDA. The first grant is for just under \$600k which will allow for improving infrastructure at the distribution site level to increase TEFAP distribution to underserved areas of the State. The second grant of approximately \$3.7 million will purchase food from local farmers who are considered socially disadvantaged and distributing those foods to underserved areas of the State. The third grant is utilizing those same disadvantaged farmers for purchasing foods for National School Lunch Program (NSLP) schools in the amount of \$2,206,790.

Child Care Licensing:

DCCECE currently has 1,962 licensed facilities including Early Intervention Day Treatment programs monitored by Division of Provider Support and Quality Assurance.

1. Staff have completed a series of 3 in-person trainings focused on the new Enterprise Licensing System (ELS), monitoring procedures, and team-building. Despite experiencing a year where there's been a lot of staff turnover, we have observed growing confidence when using ELS (more consistent monitoring practices, and stronger team relationships).